UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.166/PC/22
16 August 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Second session
New York, 22 August-2 September 1994
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Letter dated 9 August 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Governments of Indonesia and of Australia, we have the honour to transmit herewith an abridged version of the report of the Asia-Pacific Seminar on Social Development, held in Bandung, Indonesia, from 25 to 28 July 1994, containing the recommendations of the Seminar. The Governments of Indonesia and of Australia jointly sponsored this regional seminar in order to facilitate the identification by Asian and Pacific countries of common perceptions with regard to the substance of the draft declaration and draft programme of action for the World Summit for Social Development.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development at its second session.

(Signed) Nugroho WISNUMURTI
Permanent Representative
of Indonesia to the
United Nations

(Signed) John GRIFFIN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of
Australia to the United Nations

---

* A/CONF.166/PC/14.

Annex

I. REPORT OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC SEMINAR ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Background

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/92, The World Summit for Social Development will be convened in Copenhagen from 6-12 March 1995. A Preparatory Committee, open to all Member States of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, was established by the Assembly. At the first substantive session held in New York from 31 January-11 February 1994, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary General of the United Nations to prepare for its second session a draft on the expected outcome of the World Summit, which should consist of a Draft Declaration and a Draft of Programme of Action.

In conjunction with the preparation activities held by the Preparatory Committee, some regional meetings have also been planned in the effort of contributing inputs for the Draft Declaration and Draft Programme of Action. In order to facilitate the Asia and Pacific countries delegations to the Summit in identifying their common perception with regard to the substance of the Draft Declaration and Draft Programme of Action, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Australia are jointly sponsoring a "Regional Seminar on Social Development" which was held in Bandung, Indonesia, on 25-28 July 1994.

2. Objectives of the Seminar

The purpose of the Seminar was to provide a forum for invited experts of government agencies and NGOs in the Asia-Pacific region and has four main objectives:

i). To establish a dialogue and exchange of views and experience among governments, international organizations, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations, which could enrich the traditional and modern concepts associated with social development, in order to favour new views and work out alternative ways and means to solve the problem of poverty, unemployment and social integration.

ii). To allow an open discussion on issues which have a bearing on social development, under the current global and regional changes, at the regional level. It will underline the relevance of the situation and condition of the region for social development, especially in the field of poverty alleviation, expanding productive employment and social integration. It will contribute as well to the development of a modern conceptual framework, so that all those involved can

possibly converge in joint and orderly strategies aiming at solving the problems related to the three core issues.

iii). To identify specific regional perceptions and approaches in dealing with social development, especially in the effort of solving the problems of poverty, unemployment and social integration, based on the experience of the Asia-Pacific countries.

iv). To identify inputs for possible contributions of the Asia-Pacific countries toward the discussion of the three core issues within the framework of the Summit on Social Development.

B. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

1. Attendance

The Seminar was attended by 43 experts from the following countries : Australia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Vanuatu, Vietnam and observers from ADB, ILO, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP and the Indonesian Demographic Institution.

2. Opening Session

At the opening session, the Governor of West Java in his written address welcomed all participants and expressed his appreciation and satisfaction that Bandung is honoured to host the important regional seminar on social development. He hoped that through the constructive discussions during the Seminar, several perceptions and approaches could be identified based on the experience on respective participant countries with a view to tackling the issues of poverty alleviation, expansion of productive employment and social integration. In this regard, the efforts of international community in dealing with social development could be further strengthened.

The Ambassador of Australia to Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Allan Taylor in his statement expressed that the Government of Australia was very pleased to join with the Government of Indonesia in organizing this regional seminar preparing for the World Summit on Social Development. In this regard, he stressed that the World Summit as being one way to pursue cooperation among countries and has the potential to capture and to capitalize on a move world-wide to revalue and redefine a good social policy. It also offers a chance for nations to learn from each other ways in which their peoples might be better off through governments and the international community embracing social policies that are both equitable and sustainable.

His Excellency Mr. Azwar Anas, Minister Coordinator for People's Welfare presented a statement welcoming the distinguished guests and participants and opened the Seminar officially. He stated that in the years to come the world will be confronted with serious global problems such as: the depletion of natural resources, the threat to environment and the increasing population, the spread of several pandemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, natural disasters, poverty and unemployment. Therefore convening this Seminar which is attended by experts participants and observers, proved to be timely in facing and encountering this grave situation. He furthermore stressed the importance of issues which will be discussed by the Seminar namely poverty alleviation, the expansion of productive employment and social integration because of their relevance since the present problems of development focus on human beings and their efforts to achieve a decent life, prosperity, happiness and a secure life is a manifestation of social well being.

He further stated that the seminar was convened in preparation for the World Summit on Social Development and therefore should be regarded as part of continuing dialogue. The developed and developing countries must work hand in hand to ensure such a positive global climate, to promote cooperation in the endeavour to achieve economic growth and sustainable development, which is addressing to social welfare and justice. He also informed the seminar that ESCAP had requested all documentation as well as the report of this seminar be transmitted to ESCAP for review and possible reference in the ESCAP Commission's further preparatory activities for the World Summit.

Before concluding, he expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Australia for co-sponsoring the seminar and to all participants and observers. He also extended his gratitude to UNDP for its support in preparing the next workshop.

3. Election of officers

The seminar elected Mr. Jitendra Prasad Mangal of Fiji and Mr. Andrew Podger of Australia as moderators and Mr. Joseph Yomba as rapporteur in the discussion on productive employment. The seminar also appointed Mr. Zheng Hang Sheng of China and Mr. Fasli Jalal of Indonesia as moderators and Mrs. Siti Adiprigandari AS of Indonesia as a rapporteur on the issues of poverty alleviation. As moderators in the discussion on Social Integration, the seminar appointed Mr. George Borugu of Vanuatu and Mr. Manuwoto of Indonesia, while the rapporteur was Mr. Russel Rollason of Australia.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The seminar adopted the substantive agenda as follows :

a. Poverty alleviation and recommendations.
b. Productive employment and recommendations.
c. Social integration and recommendations.

5. Adoption of the Report

The seminar adopted the report and recommendations.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. PREAMBLE

Over the past decade, our world has witnessed dramatic changes. These provide us with a unique opportunity to refocus international development strategies towards a 'people centred' vision that targets poverty eradication and ensures effective popular participation in achieving sustainable human development.

The passing of the bi-polar world of the Cold War has allowed us to see with a new understanding the emerging global threats to human security. It provides a golden opportunity to direct increased national and international efforts and resources towards social goals beyond those of peace and national security.

New threats include global environmental degradation, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the growing international drug trade and related criminal networks and violence including refugees and displaced persons, and the increasing worldwide movement of people in search of work and survival. These are beyond the capacity of any one nation state to control and demand a coordinated global approach.

Nevertheless, policy responses in an increasingly interrelated global economy must recognise the specificity of social and development contexts existing in individual nations.

In taking this opportunity to address social development more rigorously, we are challenged to reemphasis the essential ethical human values that guide and direct international cooperation for development. We are seeking a new holistic approach to development requires acceptance for a far more comprehensive set of indicators for social development. Traditional indicators of economic development are not a sufficient measure of sustainable human development.

Social and economic development must be addressed together. Neither can be achieved in isolation from the other. Social values and goals must inform and direct the necessary ends and means of economic development. We consider that social policies can actively support the process of sustainable economic and social development, ensuring a fair distribution of the benefits of development while facilitating associated structural changes.

The Asia-Pacific region is characterised by:

- enormous diversity, not only in terms of culture but also in levels of development within and between nations, with some countries having experienced rapid economic growth.

- population comprising over 50% of the total number of people in the world and high population growth rate in some countries;

- relatively stable governments;

- high labour force growth rates, including for women and youth;

- increased participation in world affairs and integration with the global economy.

These characteristics will see the region emerge in the 21st century as the centre of much of the world's economic power and activity.

At the same time, the Asia-Pacific region is characterised by:

- substantial numbers of unemployed, underemployed and of people in poverty.

- enormous social problems and challenges arising from the remarkable scale and nature of economic adjustment including urbanisation, industrialisation and structural change.

The experience of nations in the Asia-Pacific region shows that economic growth and social development are interdependent. A number of countries in the region have achieved considerable success in social development including poverty alleviation and improved quality of life. Their experience is that economic growth is a prerequisite and foundation of social development but social development requires much more than economic development and should be seen as the goal and intended result of economic growth. Economic growth is therefore necessary for social development, but is far from sufficient.

Misdirected or unbalanced economic development can leave substantial inequalities with many people excluded from the benefits of growth and some suffering reduced quality of life from the impact of structural change.

We consider that social policies can actively support the process of sustainable economic development, ensuring a fair distribution of the benefits of development while facilitating associated structural changes. Such social policies require a holistic approach, taking into account cultural considerations; promoting social values which support the family and community and recognise the spirituality of people; ensuring a clear legal and administrative framework; recognising the role of technology as well as ensuring government commitment to social protection. Such an approach places people at the centre of development policies and recognises the importance of promoting development of the whole person.

B. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Our experience in the Asia-Pacific region is that sustainable social development requires an appropriate enabling environment, particularly with regard to the political and economic environment.

An enabling social and political environment is characterised by:

- political stability and social harmony;
- rule of law with well defined legislative, administrative and judicial institutions;
- acceptance of fundamental human rights; and
- effective, accountable and transparent decision-making and administration.

To achieve sustainable social development, from our experience, we also recommend:

(1) Strong political leadership and commitment to sustainable human development;

(2) Widespread participation by people throughout each nation in setting the direction and implementation of the social development process;

(3) Appropriate decentralization and devolution to empower local communities and ensure responsiveness of governments to their needs and aspirations;

(4) Increased appropriate recognition of the role of the voluntary sector in enhancing popular participation in development, in partnership with government;

(5) Promotion and protection of human rights including in particular, the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; and

(6) The principle of participation be mirrored at the international level, including within the United Nations system, ensuring that any executive groups have broad representation, and that the increasing application of international laws, regulations and standards are developed in full consultation.

The enabling economic environment at the national level requires as fundamental conditions:

- stable prices;
- balance of payments equilibrium;

- increased investment and in most countries, increased domestic savings; and
- increased levels of productivity (though not at the cost of increasing employment)

The experience of the successful Asia-Pacific economies suggests that high levels of sustained economic growth requires appropriate national and international policies with regard to trade, investment, economic reform and human resource development. The international community must strive for more effective means of transferring resources and increasing global economic growth through and related instruments.

We recommend:

(1) The promotion of the principles of free and fair trading between nations and, in particular:

- the extension of the recent Uruguay Round agreement to remove obstacles to access to world markets by developing countries; and
- the avoidance of new forms of protection such as the application of artificial regulation on labour standards;

(2) Seeking ways and means to reduce the debt burden of the developing countries;

(3) Increased investment in developing countries, including through greater international cooperation and appropriate national economic policies to ensure sustainable human development with a special attention devoted to the most heavily indebted and least developed countries;

(4) National economic reform policies to improve efficiency and growth, including land reform, reform of state enterprises and other market-related reforms;

(5) National investment in education and training, including universal basic education and continuous vocational and on the job training for those in employment;

(6) Developed countries accept the need for further structural adjustment in their economies to facilitate open international market.

C. POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Poverty is not simply an economic condition, but is a complex issues involving political, social and economic deprivation. There is need to look for better strategies in which social development in its totality is taken into account. Those strategies need to be directed towards improvement in the quality of life through an integrated approach to

human resource development which would encompass spiritual, social, cultural and political development.

Political will and commitment from government to alleviate poverty is a major determinant for sustainable human development. Government intervention can take the form of policies emphasizing not only economic growth but also equity in the distribution of the benefits of development to all levels of society. Hence, a broad based, people centred approach to development is needed.

A critical issue is the role of the state in the poverty alleviation process. Each society must make decision on the role of a range of stakeholder including government, the family, the local community, the voluntary sector and the private market. The market alone will not provide necessary basic services, and there is a need for direct involvement by government and non-government organizations. The family is central to support for individuals, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, and local communities can also lend essential support. The impact of economic development, including urbanization and industrialization, is however requiring government in developing countries to increase their direct role in poverty alleviation measures. There is a need therefore for constant review in each country of the appropriate role of governments, families, local communities and NGO's.

We therefore recommend that:

(1) A commitment to human resources development be at the center of all anti-poverty programs.

(2) Increased effort be given to identifying who and where the poor are as a first step toward establishing appropriate macro and micro strategies.

(3) The focus of policy must be the empowerment of marginalised and disadvantaged groups, in particular :

- women and children including single parents
- people with disabilities
- refugees
- isolated groups
- migrant workers
- indigenous people
- the aged
- youth

(4) Strategies for poverty alleviation include:

- the generation of productive employment;

- specific government funded and NGO anti-poverty programs, including training and financial support for micro-enterprises; and
- direct provision of social services to meet basic needs.

(5) National governments review the need for broader social protection policies as the impact of economic development increases, including through urbanisation and industrialisation, and as their financial capacity to support such policies increases;

(6) Developing countries nurture the mutual support that can be provided by the extended family unit even when separated by urbanisation and industrialization;

(7) Emphasis should be given to regional development, with appropriate decentralisation and devolution to ensure full participation by local communities. The Indonesian "Backward Village INPRES (Financial Assistance by virtue of Presidential Instruction) Programme" is a particular example which many other countries may find interesting;

(8) Marketing of social development, particularly among local politicians and leaders, to ensure the effectiveness of social development activities in a devolved environment;

(9) The role of NGO's in policy development and implementation should be improved and enhanced;

(10) The international community should ensure that its support for economic development is sensitive and responsive to national efforts to alleviate poverty;

(11) There should be international and national recognition that environmental degradation is often the result of inappropriate development management, and that environmental degradation effects most the poorest of the poor who may lose access to the very resources needed for their economic and social development. Industrialised nations must demonstrate their concern for the environment by being willing to pay prices consistent with the ecologically sustainable consumption of resources.

D. PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT

Unacceptably high levels of poverty, unemployment and underemployment remain a significant challenge for this region. It is recognised that a key to poverty alleviation is expansion of productive employment. The experience of this region has shown that this will require more than just economic growth.

Governments recognise that the formal sector is unable to expand sufficiently to accommodate the rapid growth in the labour force and migration to urban areas. Increased efforts must therefore be devoted to expanding opportunities for productive employment in the informal and rural sectors, with attention being focused on:

- an efficient and flexible allocation of resources;
- maximization of employment opportunities for all;
- equity and equality of opportunity recognising the increasing participation of women; and
- social safety nets to address the negative effects of structural change.

Labour should not be treated as a commodity in the process of economic development, but as an important actor in the development process. A broader approach encompassing human resource development and social justice is essential for the future expansion of employment opportunities in the formal, informal, and rural sectors;

We therefore recommend that:

(1) Measures to expand productive employment should focus on more than participation in formal sector employment, it must also include the informal, voluntary and domestic sectors.

(2) Productivity should not be pursued at the cost of increasing employment. In order to ensure labour absorption and avoid over concentration on physical capital and resource saving measures, an appropriate balance should be achieved within investment policies and the introduction of appropriate technology;

(3) National policies should promote access and equity across all sections of society with particular importance placed on providing access for disadvantaged groups;

(4) Measures should focus on the informal sector, micro-enterprises and the self-employed, to provide targeted assistance to increase access to credit and training in rural as well as urban areas;

(5) The role of agriculture in providing sources of employment must be considered within national policies to ensure labour absorption.

(6) Social protection measures are needed not only to protect the most disadvantaged but also alleviate the adverse impact of structural change and thus facilitate that change;

(7) Policies should be introduced to support particular groups in society at risk of employment marginalisation including: women; indigenous peoples; minorities;

migrant workers; workers displaced by structural change; isolated communities; and unemployed generally and youth unemployed in particular;

(8) Further reform to strengthen coordination at the international level between the Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank, IMF) and the various agencies of the UN system to ensure an integrated approach to economic and social development to limit the adverse impact of structural adjustment;

(9). Consideration to be given to the proposed 20/20 compact taking into account the conditions in least developed countries *);

(10) Further consideration be given to the development of indicators of social development, against which progress can be monitored, within and between countries.

E. SOCIAL INTEGRATION

In today's world, social integration is one of the key issues faced by all countries, irrespective of their stage of development. The future of humanity depends on our ability to live harmoniously together in the spirit of solidarity, responsibility and freedom, the values that form the moral foundation of all societies.

Social integration is a continuously evolving process that takes place at different levels - family, community, national and international.

At the national level, it is a process of nation building binding together the various regions and diverse peoples of a country into a coherent, functioning and interdependent whole, interacting with political, economic and cultural development.

Social integration seeks to create an atmosphere of harmonious relationship, mutual respect and appreciation with a view to enhancing the process of equitable allocation and distribution of all resources in society to all the people, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, gender, age and socio-economic status.

Social integration does not seek uniformity, but aims to enable different groups to live together in productive and cooperative diversity. An integrated society should be able to accomodate differences within a framework of shared basic values and common interest, while promoting a pattern of development based on justice for all.

There is an urgent need to identify quantitative and qualitative indicators to enable the measurement of the process of social integration. A useful example is the concept of the " 8 channels to promote equity " in Indonesia which comprise the following:

i. equitable distribution of services and supplies of basic needs, especially, food, clothing and shelter;
ii. equitable distribution of educational opportunities and health services;
iii. equitable distribution of income;
iv. equitable opportunities to acquire employment;
v. equitable opportunities for the private sector in setting up an enterprise;
vi. equitable opportunities for youth and women in the national development process;
vii. equitable distribution of development benefits throughout the country;
viii. equitable judicial assistance and services.

In most countries during the early stages of development, government has taken the lead to set policies and plans for social integration. With expanding literacy and education, people's desire and capability to participate in and benefit from the development process increases, leading to the emergence of a "civil society". People's active participation in "civil society" further strengthens their sense of belonging and nationhood.

The value of promoting tolerance cannot be overemphasised. The government and community organisations have the responsibility to encourage a culture of tolerance in society through community education and preventive measures against all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

We therefore recommend that:

(1) Governments and societies be encouraged to adopt policies to promote respect for ethnic, racial, cultural and religious diversity, and allocate the resources for community education programmes in order to achieve this objective;

(2) Governments be urged to create space for the interaction of the institutions and networks of "civil society", including non-governmental organisations of many types, professional associations, trade unions, civic groups, self-help and community groups, cooperatives and informal groupings;

(3) Governments be further urged to adhere strongly to the rules of law and deliberate development of the various actors of the "civil society";

(4) Governments be encouraged to develop policies towards the strengthening of decentralisation, and promoting free interplay among the various groupings of "civil society";

(5) Governments be called on to use taxation and expenditure policies as a means of achieving a more equitable distribution of income and assets, and to implement effective and efficient systems of tax collection;

(6) Governments be called on to ratify and implement the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(7) The active participation of women in decision making processes at all levels and equality of opportunity and equal pay for work of equal value in the work place be ensured;

(8) Governments and societies be urged to undertake positive measures to adequately prepare youth for involvement and participation in the increasingly competitive labour market;

(9) Governments and societies be further urged to intensify preventive measures against drug abuse among young people which steals their future and deprives society of potential leaders;

(10) Appropriate agencies and institutions be called on to give high priority to identifying and defining more appropriate, comprehensive, accurate and reliable indicators to measure and monitor the process of social integration.

[illegible]:

*) A 20/20 Compact would require all nations to pledge to ensure the provision of at least the very basic human development levels for all their people. It will require developing nations and aid donors to earmark a minimum of 20% of their budgets for human priority concerns. The 1994 UNDP Human Development Report proposes the following list of priorities for expenditure:

- Universal primary education - for girls as well as boys
- Adult illiteracy rates to be halved - with the female rate to be no higher than the male one
- Primary health care for all - with special stress on the immunization of children
- Severe malnutrition to be eliminated - with moderate malnutrition rates to be halved
- Access to voluntary family planning services for all
- Safe drinking water and sanitation for all
- Credit for all - to ensure self-employment opportunities.